Expansion plan of SCI

2976. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India has chalked out some major expansion plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount to be invested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The SCI has already placed orders for construction of 8 ships during the year 2000-2001 for induction in its fleet in the year 2002-2003, and has also proposed to acquire 10 more vessels during the current financial year. Besides these, SCI has participated in a joint venture with Mitsui OSK and Atlantic Commercial Finance Inc. (a subsidiary of Enron) to acquire and operate a 137,000 CBM LNG carrier for transportation of LNG for Dabhol Power Company. The Vessel is under construction at a price of US $ 189.00 million and is expected to be delivered in November, 2001 with SCI's shareholding of 20%.

SCI has also entered into joint venture with Mitsui OSK, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK) Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line) to acquire and operate two 138,000 CBM LNG carrier for transportation of LNG for Petronet LNG Ltd. at a price of US $ 158.50 Million per vessel with SCI's shareholding at 34.21%.

Import of Old Ships and Other Vessels without Licence

2977. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) by when old ships and other vessels can be imported without licence;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for such imports; and

(c) how it is ensured at the time of registration that vehicles are worthy for use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) With the announcements of